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HR 565
REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY, ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL,
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION AND THE
STATE'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SYSTEM

Statement for
House Committee on
Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - 10 April 1981

By
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HR 565 requests the House Committee on Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection to conduct a broad based study of the functions, duties, and responsibilities of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) and the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) and to review the State's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System. The Environmental Center statement on HR 565 does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The need for clearer definition of the multiple facets and responsibilities of OEQC has been documented in the February 1979 Legislative Auditor's report of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. The role of EQC was partially addressed in that report but on a much more limited basis. Hence the proposed study should provide comparable information. It is apparent that many of the deficiencies cited in that report can be attributed to misinterpretation or in some cases lack of interpretation of the joint responsibilities of the OEQC and EQC.

The study proposed by HR 565 should help to clarify such uncertainties and to offer substantive guidance to the OEQC and EQC and the EIS system.

We would hope that the more specific determination of the responsibilities of OEQC and EQC will both strengthen and expedite the EIS process.